

Systems Integration and Alignment Committee

Co-Chairs: Karen Berman and Vanessa Rich

ISBE Liaison: Reyna Hernandez

Staffer: Christy Serrano

Committee Charge: *The Systems Integration and Alignment Committee will work to recommend appropriate changes to early childhood systems and will work to improve coordination and integration across early childhood programs in order to address the comprehensive nature of children’s healthy development and readiness for school. The Committee will provide input and feedback on key federal and state early childhood initiatives that impact cross sector early childhood systems, such as Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge. In moving this work forward, the Committee will identify external tables and other ELC Committees and Workgroups to ensure work is informed and coordinated.*

Objective 1.1	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe/Status
Embed 0-5 Early Learning Guidelines and Standards across all early childhood systems, training institutes, higher education, and in TQRIS	Collaborate with the Program Standards and Quality Committee and all appropriate agencies to complete development and revision 0-5 Early Learning Guidelines (0-3) and Standards (3-5)	Committee, ISBE	2012
	Embed 0-5 Early Learning Guidelines and Standards across all early childhood care and education programs, training institutes, higher education, and in TQRIS	Committee,	TBD
Outcomes	Roll out and embed 0-3 guidelines and 3-5 standards across all early childhood systems, including higher education institutions	TBD	TBD
Comments			
Objective 1.2	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe/Status
Ensure alignment and oversee cross sector implementation of birth to 5 program standards	Collaborate with Program Standards and Quality Committee to examine birth to five program standards, ensure their alignment and integration across all early learning systems, and oversee cross sector implementation of program standards	Committee, ISBE	TBD
Outcomes	TBD	TBD	TBD

Comments			
-----------------	--	--	--

Objective 2	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe/Status
Improve Birth through Third grade alignment across the education continuum	Identify and address key areas within K-12 that have implications for early childhood and where early childhood can better align practices and policy. Areas include alignment of birth to five Early Learning Guidelines and Standards with KRA and Common Core, leveraging Title I guidelines, RTTT and i3	Committee	Ongoing
	Connect with work being done at the Data, Research and Evaluation Committee and other K-12 tables for best practices in aligning the early childhood and K-12 systems	Committee	Ongoing
Outcomes	Potential deliverable: Provide recommendations to local education and state agencies for improving alignment of early childhood programs with the K-12 system	TBD	TBD
Comments			

Objective 3.1	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe/Status
Reduce barriers to utilizing multiple funding streams for braiding and blending funding to improve quality of programs and services available to children	<p>Identify strategies to reduce program barriers to braiding and/or blending funding in a sustainable way. Possible strategies include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create crosswalk of program requirements in order to develop guidance for programs to overcome such barriers; Collaborate with Family Community and Engagement Committee on this work • Coordinate with Childcare Advisory Council and their recommendations to reduce barriers to accessing child care dollars • Identify stake holders and conduct research on groups who routinely blend multiple funding streams • Potentially convene focus groups for research, including public 	Subcommittee	<p>Subcommittee will convene September 2012</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

	agencies such as the ISBE Budget Office, to inform funding process		
Outcomes	Potential deliverable: Provide a tool kit informing early childhood programs about how to navigate and leverage potential funding opportunities using braiding and/or blending in order to improve quality of programs and services available to children	Subcommittee	2014
	Potential deliverable: Make recommendations to public agencies to improve implementation and program guidance based on identified program challenges in blending/braiding funding	Subcommittee	TBD
Comments			
Objective 3.2	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe/Status
Maximize opportunities for sustainable funding in early childhood systems	<p>Identify strategies to maximize opportunities for sustainable funding in early childhood systems. Possible strategies include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities for leveraging Title I guidance to sustain and expand pre-k programs and improve linkages between 0-5 and K-12 • Conduct research on phase-in from early childhood block grant to state funding formula while maintaining community based programs and quality of programs • Research tuition based pre-k as mechanism to improve quality and inclusion opportunities in early childhood programs • Collaborate with the HVTF (Sustainability Work Group) on strategies to maximize opportunities for sustainable funding 	Subcommittee	<p>Subcommittee will convene September 2012</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Outcomes	Potential deliverable: Complete research and make recommendations to early childhood systems for identifying and securing sustainable funding	Subcommittee	2014
Comments			

Objective 4	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe/Status
Ensure health is integrated and coordinated across all early childhood care, education and medical systems to support children's healthy development and school readiness	Identify and convene health stakeholders to determine priority work areas for health systems integration and alignment not adequately addressed at other tables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Health Subcommittee Work Areas and Plan • Begin work on supporting health systems integration work priorities as outlined by Subcommittee Work Plan and address any identified barriers for successful integration 	Committee, Subcommittee	Convened first meeting July 2012 Ongoing
	Align and support state and local childhood initiatives that focus on integrating health into school readiness	Subcommittee	Ongoing
	Connect with HVTF (Health Connections Work Group) for potential collaboration on health integration in early childhood systems work	Subcommittee	
Outcomes	Deliverable(s) will depend on work priorities of Health Subcommittee	Subcommittee	TBD
Comments			

Objective 5	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe/Status
Support the ability of local community partnerships to improve outcomes for children and families in their communities through effective state policies and practices	Community Systems Development Subcommittee will advise on implementation and monitoring of the State Advisory Council on Early Education and Care (SAC) grant as outlined in the RFP including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise the ARRA State Advisory Council Grant process in developing and implementing a technical assistance model to support and enhance the work of new and existing local collaborative partnerships • Coordinate and build on existing community partnership work in Illinois that addresses partnership building across all sectors of early childhood development and education services 	Subcommittee	2012-2014 (see RFP for specific milestones)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene a series of awareness-building outreach and information sessions to encourage effective early childhood community collaborations and partnerships • Create and implement tools to evaluate progress and outcomes at the community level • Implement collaborative (state and local) leadership practices and strategies that build community leadership and capacity to innovate and work together toward long-lasting change • Research and develop State policies and practices that will support the funding and accountability of local community systems 		
	Define “high quality community system”	Subcommittee	TBD
	Research how government bodies engage and seek input from community systems to ensure effective engagement of community systems in the creation and implementation of state policies	Subcommittee	TBD
	Advise the Home Visiting Task Force (HVTF) as needed	Subcommittee	Ongoing
Outcomes	Various (see SAC Grant RFP for milestones)		2013-2014
Comments			

Objective 6	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe/Status
Improve delivery and coordination of Special Education services for children 0-5 across all early childhood care and education systems	Convene stakeholders to identify State policies and practices that can improve the delivery of special education services to children 0-5 and their families, including opportunities to blend funding, joint professional development, and seamless transition. Possible work includes the following:	Committee, Subcommittee (if appropriate)	Subcommittee will convene November 2012

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities to improve State and local policies and practices to promote seamless transition of children between Early Intervention (EI) and pre-K special education services (Part C to Part B). • Research best practices to ensure that children 0-3 with substantiated cases of abuse and neglect are referred to EI and connected to appropriate services through coordinated system of referral evaluation and service delivery between DCFS and DHS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinate with other special education tables including the IICEI, the Attorney General's Committee on Disabilities, etc. to develop or identify best practices • Examination of policies and practices that ensure that children referred for early intervention and special education 0-5 are tracked in a unified manner from birth through 21, including decisions of ineligibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Potentially coordinate work with the Data, Research and Evaluation Committee on this work • Promote state policies and practices that ensure that LEAs respond to all requests for initial special education eligibility from children 2 ½ - 5 within 14 school days and provide families opportunity to consent to evaluation (building off of the work completed in Special Populations Committee) 		
Outcomes	Deliverable(s) will depend on work priorities of the Subcommittee	TBD	TBD
Comments			